Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.
Applicant instructs the Patent Office NOT to enter the amendments submitted on October 19, 2006 in a Response under 37 CFR 1.116.
Applicant reserves the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1 – 27 (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A method for uniformly removing an MCrAlY bonding layer disposed over a component, the bonding layer comprising one or more degradations which result in different reactivity in an acid bath compared to MCrAlY bonding layer regions lacking said degradations, the method comprising:

a first step, coarsely removing portions of the bonding layer;

subsequent to the first step, ~~completely~~ diffusing ~~from a gas phase~~ a diffusion agent comprising aluminum and cobalt ~~at least two elements~~ into a remaining portion of the bonding layer~~,~~;

heat treating the remaining portion of the bonding layer at a temperature sufficient to convert gamma and gamma prime phases in degradations in the remaining portion to an aluminum rich beta phase;

wherein the ~~completely diffusing the diffusion agent causes a~~ phase conversion is effective to make ~~change in~~ the degradations in the remaining portion of the bonding layer ~~so that both degraded and non-degraded regions of the bonding layer exhibit a more uniform reactivity in the~~ more easily removed by the acid bath; and

uniformly removing the remaining portion of the bonding layer by exposure to the acid bath.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, the coarsely removing step comprising mechanical sand blasting, immersing the component in an acid bath, or both.

30 - 33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the M of the MCrAlY bonding layer is an element iron, cobalt or nickel.

35 – 37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) A method for uniformly removing an MCrAlY bonding layer disposed over a component, the bonding layer comprising a partial area comprising corrosion products, the method comprising:

a first step, coarsely removing portions of the bonding layer;

subsequent to the first step, ~~completely~~ diffusing ~~from a gas phase~~ a diffusion agent comprising aluminum and cobalt ~~at least two elements~~ into a remaining portion of the bonding layer;

heat treating the remaining portion of the bonding layer at a temperature sufficient to convert gamma and gamma prime phases in the remaining portion to an aluminum rich beta phase; and

mechanically removing the ~~partial area~~ remaining portion,

wherein the ~~completely diffusing of the diffusion agent~~phase conversion has enabled the ~~partial area~~ remaining portion to become sufficiently brittle for the mechanically removing.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, the bonding layer comprising a metal compound, and the coarsely removing step comprising mechanical sand blasting, immersing the component in an acid bath, or both.

40 - 42. (canceled)

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the M of the MCrAlY bonding layer is an element iron, cobalt or nickel.

44 – 46. (canceled)

47. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 38, the mechanically removing ~~selecting~~ selected from the group consisting of sand blasting, ultrasound treatment, and dry ice blasting.